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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/846,432	04/30/2001	Neil Benjamin	LAM-P0808	4586

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EXAMINER

PAIK, SANG YEOP

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3742

DATE MAILED: 11/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/846,432	Applicant(s) BENJAMIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Sang Y Paik	Art Unit 3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 33-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 33-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/14/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-11 and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 1, 33 and 36, the recited term "low power" is a term of relative degree which renders the scope of the claims unclear. It is unclear what would the range of such power would constitute a "low power".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kholodenko et al (US 6,310,755) in view of Kuibira et al (US 6,365,879).

Kholodenko et al show a chuck for plasma processor having a temperature controlled base (190), a flat support made of non-electrically conductive material for holding a work-piece (175), the flat support bonded to the base with an insulation layer (295), a heater embedded in the flat support, and a thermal conductor such as helium gas provided between the flat support

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and the work-piece. However, Kholodenko et al does not disclose that the insulator layer is a thermal insulation material having the thermal conductivity of less than about 1 W/mK.

Kuibira et al shows a thermal insulation material that has the thermal conductivity of 10W/mK or less. Kuibira et al further teaches that the insulator having such thermal conductivity prevent heat loss toward the back side of the heating surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Kholodenko et al with the thermal insulator shown by Kuibira et al in place of the insulation layer (295) to thermally insulate the flat support and prevent undesired heat loss through the back side of the support.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kholodenko et al in view of Kuibira et al as applied to claims 1-3 and 11 above, and further in view of Furuya et al (US 6,084,215).

Kholodenko et al in view of Kuibira et al shows the structure claimed except the thermal insulator comprising a polymer.

Furuya et al shows a thermal insulation material made of polymer plastic material that bonds a flat support having a heater embedded therein with a temperature controlled base. In view of Furuya et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Kholodenko et al, as modified by Kuibira et al, with the thermal insulator made of polymer as an alternative material to thermally insulate the heating flat support.

6. Claims 5-9 and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kholodenko et al in view of Kuibira et al as applied to claims 1-3 and 11 above, and further in view of Mahawili (US 5,059,770) or Carman et al (US 5,294,778)

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Kholodenko et al in view of Kuibira et al discloses all the structure and method claimed except the heater having a plurality of planar heating elements.

Mahawili or Carman et al shows a work-piece heating apparatus having a plurality of heating elements with a plurality of sensor that are independently controlled to measure the respective heating zones. In view of Mahawili or Carman et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Kholodenko et al, as modified by Kuibira et al, with a plurality of heating elements and sensors to control the respective heating zones to achieve the desired heating temperature across the heating plate.

7. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kholodenko et al in view of Kuibira et al as applied to claims 1-3 and 11 above, and further in view of Weber (US 4,518,848).

Kholodenko et al in view of Kuibira et al discloses all the structure claimed except the heater being an etched foil.

Weber shows an electric heating element in the formed of an etched foil. In view of Weber, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Kholodenko et al, as modified by Kuibira et al, with an etched foil as an alternative heating formation to provide for the heating element on a heating plate to produce the desired high temperature and uniform heating across the heating plate.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 9/24/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that since Kholodenko operates at a high temperature at about 600 degree C, it is distinguished from the applicant's invention where the incoming flux is of a low power heat flux. However, Kholodenko allows its device to heat up to 600 degree C as well as at a lower temperature than 600 degree, i.e., 25-500 degree C. In view of this teaching, the applicant's argument is not deemed persuasive.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

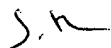
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sang Y Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-4783. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-4:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 517-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sang Y Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742

syp